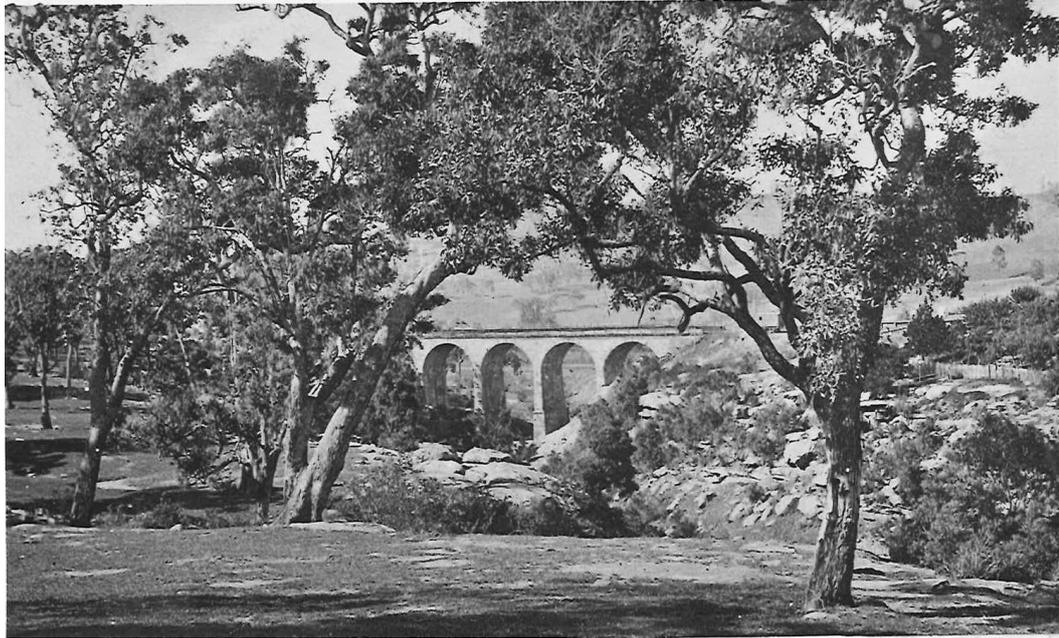


Volume 33 No. 1

March 2019

THE STONEQUARRY JOURNAL



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The Picton and District Historical and Family History Society Inc.

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| Pensioners and Students | \$15.00 |
| Single | \$20.00 |
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Meetings

We meet at 9.30 am on the first Saturday of each month (**except** January) in the Susan Keohane Local History Room, Picton Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton.

Research

Our Research Room is in the Susan Keohane Local History Room, Picton Library, 42 Menangle Street, Picton and is open each Thursday from 9.30 am until 3 pm or by appointment.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to 2019. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year and you had time to do some research over the holidays. Our Facebook page has been going very well, with lots of interaction and request for information.

Picton High School Presentation Night was held at Bargo Sport in December, this because of the new construction at the school, they held a lovely sit down meal. I presented the John Ruffles History Prize, the winner being Jamie-Lee Blackmore.

As mentioned in our November Journal, I have again been elected President of the NSW and ACT Association of Family History Societies. This year's Conference will be hosted by Ku-ring-gai Historical Society from 11 – 13 October at Knox Grammar School. The Association also hosts a very interesting and informative [FB page](#) which I recommend to those who are on FB to have a look at and "follow".

Members of our Society and other interested participants recently attended a meeting at the Wollondilly Library initiated by Librarian Gail Dunn and Doreen Lyon of The Oaks Historical Society and Wollondilly Heritage Centre to discuss a theme to celebrate History Week. The History Council of NSW annually organise History Week, which this year will take place from 31 August to 8 September. This year the theme is "Memory and Landscapes" and in keeping with the theme it was agreed to go with a "Then and Now" of street names – which would include photos, the reason/meaning behind the name and the people who have lived in them. It is planned that the whole of the Wollondilly Shire will be included and result in displays at various venues throughout the Shire. A more ambitious and permanent proposal from Sue Davis of The Oaks Historical Society is to create a publicly accessible on-line data base of street names and their meanings. We will keep you updated on the progress of the project and if you have any ideas or wish to participate, please contact Kate or Marlane.

Gail Hanger – President.

DAME DURDEN'S POST OFFICE Marlane Fairfax (Member)

The Town and County Journal of the 1890s invited young readers to write to "Dame Durden's Post Office". The invitation was to children aged under 18 and asked that they write about their lives, their animals, adventures etc. In these columns I have found a number of letters written by children from our district and will share these articles with you in coming journals. They give a wonderful insight into a child's view of life in the 1890s and in some instances a description of their locality.

The first from "NT (aged 14)" of Buxton via Balmoral – Town & Country Journal 20 April 1895

Dear Dame Durden, This is the first time I have attempted to write, but I hope it will not be the last. Buxton is a small place on the Southern line, about sixty-two miles from Sydney. There are about sixteen houses here. Most of the inhabitants are occupied in fruit growing, chiefly, apples. A men's cricket club was formed here a few weeks ago. They played their first match against the Thirlmere club last Saturday, the 16th. The Thirlmere club won by four runs. When we wish to do any shopping we have to go five miles to the nearest store. From our side verandah we can see Bulli Mountain. In the proper season the bush is full of flowers, and the many different colors give it a very-pretty appearance. I am competing for three competitions, and hoping that they meet success, I will conclude, with kind regards. I remain, yours sincerely.

FARRINGTON LODGE – ROSE COTTAGE FARM – BERKELEY LODGE

Ken Williams (Life Member)

Farrington Lodge as it was known then, was built by Brigade Major Henry Colden Antill somewhere around 1840, when according to the 1841 Census it was tenanted by Dr. Donald Rankin MacDonald (1810-1860), who as well as attending to the districts medical problems, was a clerk of Petty



Sessions. MacDonald had arrived in Sydney 28 February 1839 on the *British King* from Scotland (1) and had married Ann Campbell, daughter of Duncan and Helen Campbell.

Antill had married Eliza Wills and both families down the generations gave their children second given names of friends or marriage partners, one of which, from the Antill side was Farrington. This is borne out by two children of John Macquarie Antill and Jessie Campbell, who named a daughter Celia Farrington Antill (22 February 1855 (2) to 1860 (3), and then another of the same name 13 October 1861 (4). Colden was the maiden name of Antill's mother and a cousin was Charles Colden Farrington.

MacDonald occupied Farrington Lodge until 1846, when the tenancy was taken over by William Berkeley Campbell, who had arrived with MacDonald on the *British King*. He was born circa 1817 in Dublin, Ireland and married Mary Semple in 1840. (5) He was a valued friend of the Antill's, tutoring their children, a mail contractor between Campbelltown and the newly created village of Picton and a superintendent of St. Mark's Anglican Church in Picton after it was built in 1856. He was to reside on the farm until he died 26 August 1904 (6), being buried in St. Mark churchyard. The following death notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald of 30 August 1904.

William Berkeley Campbell died 26th August 1904 at Berkeley Lodge Picton, 3rd son of the late Alexander (and Julia) Campbell of Mount Joy Square, Dublin, Ireland.

The *Australian Town & Country Journal* of 7 September 1904 reported that in his younger days he served for some years in the Don Carlos (Spanish) war, reaching the rank of Captain and had been severely wounded three times.

During the years 1841 to 1904, the farm had three owners. Henry Colden Antill in his will dated 5 April 1845 left the farm to his daughter, Margaret Campbell Antill born 27 June 1820 (7), but she died 22 July 1849 (8). In a codicil of 1851 he changed the beneficiary to his second daughter Alice Sophia Antill born in 1824 (9). (indexed under the surname Colden)

Alice married Henry Moggridge on the 5th May 1856 in Picton. (10) It was the second last marriage performed in the district before St Mark's was consecrated at the end of 1856. They moved to England where they both died in London, Henry in 1866 and Alice in 1920. Meanwhile Alice had sold

the property on the 5th January 1892 to Rosanna Mary Campbell, when it became known as Rose Cottage Farm. For the first time, one of the conveyances has a full description of the property.

Seven acres, part of a 100 acre grant to Henry Colden Antill on the 6th July 1833 in the Parish of Picton, County of Camden, near Razorback, known as Rose Cottage Farm or Farrington Lodge. £140.0.0. (11) (The 100 acres was part of the Jarvisfield Estate being north by the Great South Road and west and east of Racecourse Creek)

Rosanna (known as Rose) was born 11 September 1847 (12) the 4th child of William Berkeley and Mary, when they were residing in the cottage as tenants. Rose died shortly before her father on 26 November 1903 (13) and was buried in St. Mark's churchyard. Upon Rose's death, Rose Cottage Farm passed to her younger sister, Isabella Alma Campbell born 10 March 1855 (14) and it appears, it then became known as Berkeley Lodge as it was named such when William Berkeley died in 1904.

In 1906 a boundary dispute arose between Isabella and Robert Henry Antill over the replacement of fences washed away in a flood in 1904. The Sydney Morning Herald reported on the 2nd June 1906 a case before Mr. Justice Pring and a jury of 4 held in No. 2 Jury Court.

Isabella Alma Campbell of Berkeley Lodge, Picton, sued Robert Henry Antill for alleged trespass and damage to her property and claimed £1000.0.0 and a writ of injunction to restrain him from repeating the injuries complained of. Antill had dug holes and destroyed fences, claiming the property at that time belonged to him. The case was stood over to a future date.

The Sydney Morning Herald of 24 July 1906 continued the coverage. It transpired the dispute was over a small amount of land measuring about half an acre. The judge instructed the jury that the case was not one for vindictive damages, yet the jury found for the plaintiff in the sum of £250.0.0. The judge was not in favour of the verdict, as he thought only nominal damage was done and a settlement should have been made out of court.

Isabella died on the 1st February 1932 (15) and the property passed to her nephew William Berkeley Campbell (the 3rd of that name after his grandfather and an uncle) born 1895 in Picton, (16) the son of Isabella's brother John James Campbell. William did not retain possession of Berkeley Lodge, as six months later, on 12 August 1932 ownership passed from William Berkeley Campbell of Spring Creek (vendor) to Rita May Turner (purchaser), wife of Alfred George (known as George) Turner in consideration of £700.0.0., for all that parcel of land known as Berkeley Lodge, known at one time as Rose Cottage farm or Farrington Lodge. (17)

Rita was the daughter of Picton Alderman Ernest and Annie Eagles and had married George Turner at St. Mark's Anglican



Church Picton 1 March 1930 and initially lived at Brookside. (19) Rita and George retained ownership until 1981. George ran a transport business to and from Sydney, at one in partnership with Bill Hanrahan.

Endnotes

- (1) NSW AO Reel 2654 4/4780 pp. 230-1
- (2) NSWBDM V42-1519
- (3) Ibid 1860/5542
- (4) Ibid 1861/11915
- (5) Ibid V73-522
- (6) Ibid 1904/10768
- (7) Ibid V8-217
- (8) Ibid V34-789
- (9) Ibid V1-6556
- (10) Ibid 1856/1239

- (11) Land Titles Office (LTO) Book 482 No. 672
- (12) NSWBDM V32-1141
- (13) Ibid 1903/15399
- (14) Ibid V42-1521
- (15) Ibid 1932/107
- (16) Ibid 1895/6628
- (17) LTO Book1646 No. 135
- (18) NSWBDM 1910/4527
- (19) Ibid 1930/2129 and Picton Post 5 March 1930.

GRAVE TALES

Marlane Fairfax (Member)



Gibson headstone Redbank Cemetery

This headstone is in Redbank Uniting (formerly Wesleyan) cemetery and memorialises the lives of John GIBSON of Upper Picton who died on 4 November 1886 aged 74 and his wife Irene Elizabeth who died 3 September 1903. The headstone tells us that John was a native of Newcastle on Tyne and “for many years a preacher of the Wesleyan connexion.”.His wife is merely described as his “relict” meaning widow. John’s death notice in the SMH of 11 November 1886 provides the additional information that his home was called “Swiss Cottage”.

Irene’s death notice appearing in the Daily Telegraph of 13 September 1903 gives the information that she died at her sister's residence, Woodland Cottage, Upper Picton; that she was the widow of John and the youngest daughter of the late Rev. Ambrose Freeman, Wesleyan minister of Glossop,

England. But who was the sister? The property name “Woodland Cottage” rang a bell. A search on Trove of the Picton newspapers on “Woodland Cottage” brought up the death on 7 May 1916 of Susan Cummins, widow of the late James Cummins, which took place at her residence, Woodland Cottage, Upper Picton. She was 93. Her obituary revealed that she “was a native of Essex, England, and came to Australia many years ago with her two sisters, Miss Freeman and Mrs Gibson, both of whom have predeceased her. Mrs Cummins had lived at Picton for about 40 years.”

There is no entry in our 1987 Upper Picton Cemetery Transcript for Cummins but there is for Freeman. This headstone is in very poor condition; the front layer of stone on which the inscription was written has all but “peeled off” and any inscription is illegible. The



Freeman - Cummins headstone Upper Picton

only words that could be deciphered in 1987 were “Freeman... ..H” November; Freeman Susan” and “sister of...”; “widow of...”; and “of Wesley...”. The BDM death index gives the death of Sarah Freeman as November 1897 and her death notice in the Daily Telegraph tells us that her death occurred on 22 November “at her sister’s residence, Woodland Cottage, Upper Picton”.

Susan Cummins nee Freeman married James Cummins of Wesley Park, Illawarra in 1863. James Cummins died in February 1872 at Wesley Park and is buried in the Church of England Cemetery, American Creek (Mount Kembla). I believe the missing words from the earlier transcript are “...widow of James Cummins of Wesley Park”.

From the Picton News of Tuesday May 5 1988

MONA STEWART OF DOUGLAS PARK.

by Marie O’Connell

A by gone era passed when the family and townfolk of Douglas Park paid their last respects to Mona Stewart on March 16, 1988.

Mona Harriet Rice was born at Douglas Park, November 1917 to Arthur Albert Rice and his wife Marie Ann (nee O’Brien).

The newborn child was not meant to have the normal care and love of her mother as it was soon after this that Marie Ann’s health began to decline and at a very tender age Mona and her three brothers and three sisters were left to fend without her.

The family managed to be held together with Albert moving from the flying gang on the railways to be a local fettler and thereby be nearer the children.

All of the children learned to pull their weight to keep the family home in Station Street running smoothly. The comfortable old home of split wood logs had the homely acrid smell of wood from the fuel stove, constantly kept burning, the large black kettle standing sentinel with hissing steam always ready for the next pot of tea, the smell of fresh sand soap told of cleanliness, a good supply of flour and sugar were stored in milk cans under the cooking table, aluminium dishes ready for the washing-up by their side, cupboard legs stood in borax and sugar to deter the invasion of ants, especially from the large tins of treacle, or honey collected from the local bush hives, to dress a slice of high capped country bread.

Arthur kept a large orchard with a good variety of fruits and there were always a plentiful supply of fresh vegetables for the family.

In the predawn hours of the day one could hear the scuffle of Arthur donning his boots before he kindled the stove, mixed the mash and boiled of vegetable peelings for the fowls, then there were the cows to be milked before he packed his tucker box and headed across the road to his work.

The days of the Depression came and many a swaggie down on his luck would call at the homestead offering to cut wood for a feed. He was never turned away hungry and this was most likely where generosity became embed in Mona’ nature.

Mona and her brothers and sisters loved to roam the bushlands, the older brothers and father setting rabbit traps and ferreting to help supplement the family diet, gathering mushrooms filled

many happy hours or simply meandering down the old convict built road to the riverbank where past dredging provided a great swimming hole, the only intrusion of noise there was the running water, bird calls and the laughter of splashing swimmers.



Douglas Park River Crossing c 1930s

The Depression years were easing, cars were starting to take over from the horse and buggy, tractors replacing the draft horse, the night skies were dimmed of their brilliance by

electricities glaring light where once there had been a flicker of kerosene lamp and candlelight. Radio took over from the evenings around the piano, the beginning of World War Two was blared from all radio stations and the daily newspaper told so many stories of horror, the placid era of the past was fast fading.

By now Mona had blossomed into a beautiful young lady, her dark eyes and brown hair, inheritance from her mother as most of the Rice family boasted of blue eyes and fair hair.

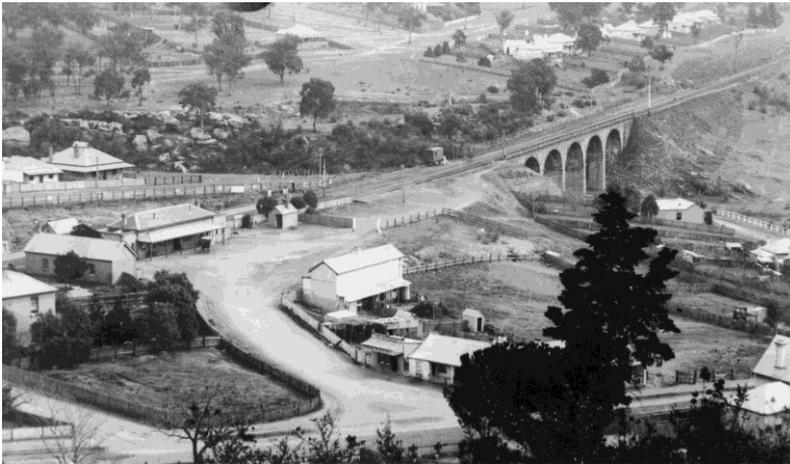
Mona and her cousin Patricia Cummins (now Parker) had formed a friendship at an early age that was to carry them right through their lives and Mona's passing is a sad loss for the "Town's Aunty". Mona and Pat both did war service in the "Women's Land Army". Mona was posted to Batlow fruit picking, "Aunty Pat" learnt to drive heavy machinery. It was in these turmoil years that Mona met her soldier sweetheart Fred Midgely from Tasmania. Fred served in the Middle East and then New Guinea. Mona and Fred were married at St. Mary's Towers during the war years, and on his return from service they settled in Tasmania.

A beautiful girl Robyn was born of this marriage, but like many war-time romances this was not to last. Mona hated the colder climate and dearly missed her dad and Douglas Park, she returned to her family home.

Life will progress in the town, new houses are fast spreading into the bushlands and the community growing, but the quiet reminiscences of the past will always be there in the background. Mona and the Rice family [are] buried deep in its history, many of the family still living in the area and those who have left often hear the call to return and visit.

THE OLD FUR AND FEATHER FACTORY/CHEESE FACTORY - now Vaby's Restaurant

Kate Holmes (Member)



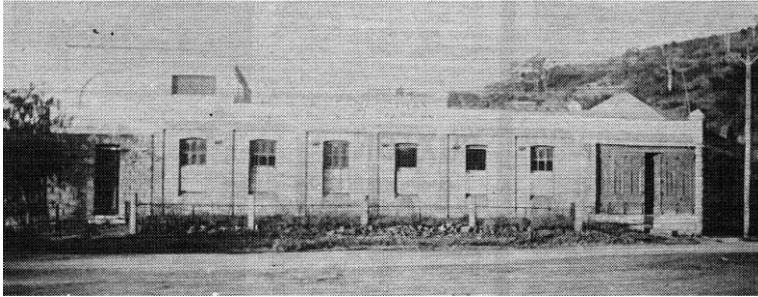
With the coming of the railway to Picton in 1863, the area around the station developed into the “third town of Picton”, after the Private Town or Lower Picton, and the Government Town or Upper Picton, from the 1840s. Both the station area and the Private Town were part of the original

grant of Jarvisfield to Major Henry Antill in 1822, with Stonequarry Creek its southern border. Interest in this area started before the line was opened, with the then Terminus Hotel, Menangle Street being opened in 1861 (later Florence Villa, then the Club Hotel, and finally the Imperial, now closed).

Opposite the hotel, between Menangle Street and the railway station, Lot 1 of Section 3 was sold by John Macquarie Antill to brothers Edwin and William Fieldhouse, in 1864. The brothers were from Campbelltown, and bought up quite a bit of land in Picton from this time. The first building on this lot was probably the Jarvisfield Store, on the corner of Menangle Street, and what later became Station Street; later a small terrace of three houses was built facing the station, and a small building between these two became a tea room and shop. The only photo the Society has of this area is taken from the hill up behind the hotel - a wonderful view of the station area, including the Stonequarry Viaduct and parts of Campbell and Webster Streets. The buildings on Lot 1 are shown – part of Jarvisfield Store is behind the tree in the foreground, next to it the tea room is visible, and then the back of the terrace can be seen. The photo was taken around 1910.

The Fieldhouse brothers divided the lot between them in 1904, Edwin Fieldhouse taking the southern section. He then sold it to William Kutnewsky, “furrier of Sydney” in February 1920, for £350. William then demolished the terrace houses, and when Picton Council approved most of his plans, building commenced on his factory.

It is interesting that Kutnewsky’s address is given as Sydney when he had been living in Thirlmere since at least 1910, and may have had a small factory there as well. Building in stone seems to have been his forte, as “The Castle” in Kendall Street, Thirlmere is an impressive home still. However, William was not much liked by some in the district and he suffered various acts of vandalism. As World War I started, there were rumours that his house was built with crenellations and flat roof so that German spies could land small planes on it. And William was interned during World War I as an



enemy alien. Despite his unpopularity, he returned to Thirlmere after the war and found one major change. In 1919 the main railway line had been rebuilt, and the original line through Thirlmere was now just a loop line. This may have caused the move to the Picton station area, and he set about quarrying stone from nearby and building his Fur & Feather Factory. Fashions before the war included feather boas, muffs, fur collars as well as cockades for military headgear, and during the 1920s some items went out of fashion. William Kutnewsky began advertising further south where the winters were colder than in Sydney; the railway made transporting bulky furs quite easy.

Wm Kutnewsky.
Fur and Feather Specialist
Factory:- Picton Railway Square
Show Rooms:- Paris House Phillip Street
Sydney

There are now vacancies for apprentices, girls just leaving school preferred, also experienced fur liners, probably with dressmaking knowledge would assist greatly.

This work is different to other trades, it is a profession where high premiums are paid in other parts of the world.

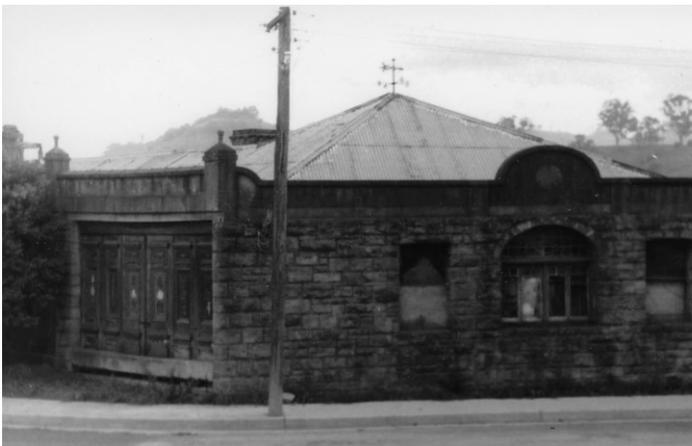
Picton Post 9 April 1924

The business was going well, and in 1924 he extended the factory, along the side facing the railway station, because his advertisements then gave his address as Railway Square. In January he advertised that on Monday 28th and for the rest of the week he would be showing next season "Fur garments, Rugs, Mats etc." The business could also do repairs, and also had a showroom in Phillip Street, Sydney. He had applied, successfully, to Picton Council to have electricity extended to the premises in the same month. Things may not have been going quite as well as he hoped, because Kutnewsky took out a mortgage in February 1925, for £878. Before he could pay it all back, William died on 24th July, 1926, and the factory soon closed. The property, including plant, was advertised for sale on 4th March, 1927 as a "commodious Stone Building suitable for Refreshment Rooms, Factory or Residence".

Williams's probate records that his total assets were valued at £1,202/6/- and his debts as £978/11/- His major assets were in real estate: the factory and his home. The valuation by local auctioneer Willie Larkin described the factory site as facing Railway Street, with a "stone and wooden factory constructed of second hand material and unfinished"; the land was valued at £100 and the building at £650. He also had two acres, lots 36 and 37 between Lumsdaine Street and Argyle Street, described as "unimproved and useless except for a small amount of freestone available" value £25, and possibly the site of his "quarry", though the creek banks might have been a better choice. His home was also described as incomplete, of wood and stone, "built very badly and constructed principally of second hand material" and valued at £150, with some sheds at £15 and his 36 acres of land at £162. Most of his debts were two mortgages, one possibly on his house now at £262/4/8, and the other on the store, for £530. His Thirlmere home was bought by Mr. Prosser, and in November 1928 Jonathon and Susan McInnes of Tahmoor bought the factory for £160. The plant was sold for £68/4/-.

The next decade saw a number of attempts to use the building. Jonathon McInnes must have been one of a group who formed the Picton Ice Works, registered in June 1929, but that didn't last long. In 1931, at the height of the Depression, there were reports of a large group of men squatting in the building, but by November plans for a milk depot were passed by Council, and by February 1932 this was to be run by J.H. Roberts & Son. Approval for the depot had been given by the Milk Board, but soon afterwards there was some problem with the Dairy Farmers Co-op. By this time the new machinery had been installed, and there was local support for the project, but this business soon closed.

After this a Dutch family of Tonnesen & Sons started the first cheese-making business which in 1937 was sold to Joe Attanasio. He had as a partner George Ray of Wellington Park, near Picton, who often had excess milk, and thought it could be used to make cheese. Members of the Ray family remember that Joe made wonderful round cheeses, his specialty being a "picnic cheese" which had at its centre a pound of butter, which sounds interesting! Most of the cheese was sold to the Italian community in Sydney, but business was difficult because the local dairies would only sell when they had excess milk, and this would vary from week to week. And then, in 1939 war was declared, and soon Joe, as an Italian was interned, and the business closed. There was an attempt to use the building as a tannery, but the problem of what to do with the waste put an end to that.



Some photos of the building were taken by Norma Ross in 1956, showing the stone section facing the road, and a back view showing some of the two-storied section. The first photo suggests the longer extension facing onto what is now the station car park, as well the very impressively decorated wooden doors. Although looking rather dilapidated, the building seems to be usable at this stage, and the fine iron gates were still in place. These gates are a bit of a mystery, being embossed HMC and NETHERTON BES. Soon after this Society was formed (in 1987) then secretary Jan Ross tried to find out what these meant – did they come from the Customs House in Sydney? Was the Netherton a reference to the place of manufacture? She wrote many letters to various places in England, and Netherton was a centre for iron working in the 19th century, and could have been the source of the gates. The BES letters could refer to the Bessemer process, as no-one could find a company that would fit those letters. It was suggested that the gates might have come from Customs House, as some side gates were removed

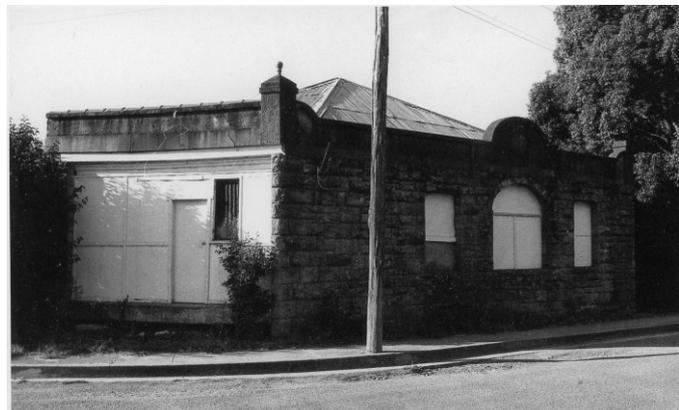
before 1920. Or they could have come out as ballast at some time. The probate records suggest that William Kutnewsky liked checking out salvage places, so the gates could have come from there.

A fire in 1959 did some damage, and the Council became increasingly annoyed as the building became more of a white elephant. Picton had amalgamated with Wollondilly Shire Council in 1940,



The gates embossed with the letters HMC and year 1886

and in 1973 approved the demolition of the old factory. This work began in July, and seems to have taken down the long timber addition, as well as clearing out the trees and bushes in the back area. A photo in 1976 shows just the corner section, with boarded up windows, and the big wooden doors (possibly removed or destroyed) also boarded up. Perhaps this section was saved because of all the stone, which would have been harder and more expensive to remove. There were more suggestions that it be demolished in the 1980s, but the Heritage Council slapped a conservation order on the building and its gates in January 1988.



The building in 1976

The surviving building was up for auction in March 1992, as the Old Cheese Factory, as it is still known, its beginnings as the Fur & Feather factory forgotten. At this point the roof also survived. One of the advertisements included an old photo, showing the long face of the factory with the extra large doors on the

right, then 6 large windows and another smaller door on the left. There were more sales ads in September, when the price was listed as \$120,000, but there were no buyers. By 2000 a great deal of damage had been done by vandals, once the roof had gone. Despite its terrible condition, soon after this the building was sold, renovated and rebuilt, though the big wooden doors live on only in photographs. Vaby's Restaurant was well established by 2006 and continues to this day.

Sources

Society archives including stories collected by Bruce Knox in the 1960s and 1970s; articles in the *Picton Post* on microfilm; Probate records collected by Jan Ross; photographs taken by Norma Ross and donated by Jim Whitfield, and others taken by Society members.

DON ATHALDO

By Margaret Schmitt (Member)

Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939), Thursday 1 August 1935, page 3

AMAZING STORY OF DON ATHALDO

MAN WHO BROKE ALL STRENGTH RECORDS

HOW A PUNY CHILD GREW TO BE A WORLD'S CHAMPION

TO have a mother die of consumption—to be rejected as medically unfit from the Canadian Military Forces and the Australian Imperial Force during the war—and to lie on his back in plaster of Paris for weeks on end with a broken spine, and then to become the strongest and, perhaps, the most perfectly-developed man of the age, is the amazing story of Don Athaldo.

ATHALDO was born in Condobolin, and he was so weak at birth that little hope was held out for his survival—so imperfectly developed was he that he was unable to walk until he was six years of age. Then he saw a strong man in a circus. It made him envious, and the youthful Don determined not only to emulate him, but to excel him.



DON ATHALDO, Super Man of the Age

Walter Joseph Lyons was born in Condoblin NSW on 26th November 1901, to parents Frank H.G. & Elizabeth (nee Power) Lyons. Frank and Elizabeth had married in Parkes, NSW in 1890. He had an older brother and sister.

Walter was a weak and sickly child who was not expected to live long.

At the age of 9 years he was taken to a circus, an event which changed his life.

He was mesmerised by the circus strong man, he said, not only because of his power and strength but also because he aspired to wear the leopard print which looked so good on him.

He began to do a series of exercises which would build up his body, the better his body looked the more he exercises he did and the more confidence he got in himself. Soon he was taking part in body building contests and winning them.

Walter Joseph Lyons was married to Vera E. Stewart at Marrickville in 1921.

Walter enlisted in the AIF for WW1, and served with the No. N 101 835.

During this time he was wounded when a piece of metal became embedded in his forehead. It was considered at that time to be too dangerous to try to remove it, so Walter carried the constant reminder of his service with him.

He adopted the name of **DON ATHALDO**.

By 1931 he was known world-wide as the Strong Man from Australia, having performed many feats of strength and broken many records. In 1932 he was living in Leichhardt, Sydney and running the 'Athaldo Institute of Physical Culture' at 64-66 Oxford St in Sydney.

He was accredited with achieving a number of remarkable feats of strength and with attaining remarkable physical perfection, even after suffering a broken spine.

A modern-day Hercules, his claimed feats of strength included carrying horses up ladders and lifting automobiles. He could lift 1 ton 15 cwt, approximately, in harness, pressed 1ton 5 cwt with his legs, in a hip lift he managed 1 ton ½ cwt and carried 12 cwt in Leningrad.

Walter Joseph Lyons enlisted again for WW2, retaining his WW1 service number. He was discharged again on 21st January 1944, with the rank of corporal.

In June 1941 Sgt Lyons was travelling with the 3rd Mobile Recruitment Unit at Young, NSW, when he had cause to visit a doctor. Examining his old wound the doctor decided it would now be safe to remove the piece of metal which he had been carrying in his head for the past 26 years.

The explanation for this 'miracle operation' was that the constant movement of his military hat rubbing against his head had, somehow, moved the metal to a more favourable position.

In 1940 the Christmas issue of 'Health and Strength' the leading magazine on the subject announced 'The Australian Strong Man and Physical Culturist was selected from entrants all over the Universe as

Referee (Sydney, NSW : 1886 - 1939), Thursday 1 August 1935, page 3



*ATHALDO Resisting Strength of Four Horses.
"The Greeks were ath-*

1st place in Herculean Development and 2nd in the Perfect Physique section' after he lifted 25 ½ cwt (approx. 1,360.27 kilos). By now he owned several gyms

around the city.

In 1935 friends were bragging that his car ever got bogged he didn't need to wait for assistance, he would simply alight and lift the car back on to safer ground, this feat was vouched for by the President of the Light Car Club , Mr Allman

He was interested in helping others reach their peaks of physical fitness and even prepared an 84 page book on the subject.

By November 1932 the success of his Institute brought him to announce the opening of another similar venue in Brisbane.

Over the years he was often seen at Thirlmere where he would visit his sister, Blanche, *Mrs Harry Smith.

Walter Joseph Lyons died at Ettalong on the NSW Central Coast on 25th May 1965.

***Additional notes:**

It is not known when Blanche came to the Thirlmere area however she is mentioned in various social items in the Picton Post from mid 1935. Blanche married Harry Smith at St Mark's Picton in 1941 – the write up of the wedding in the Picton Post stating he was the third son of Mr & Mrs George Smith of Lakesland – formerly of Guildford. After their marriage Blanche and Harry made their home at Yarrawa, Lakesland.

Blanche died in Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital, Thirlmere in August 1980, Harry in 1985 Both had worked at Queen Vic over the years – Harry as the gardener.

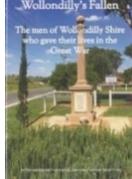
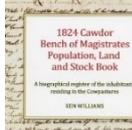
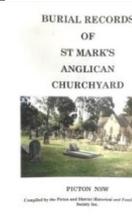
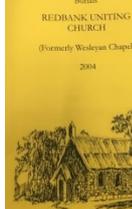
100 YEARS AGO

The Picton – Mittagong Railway Deviation opened in July 1919

The Pneumonic Influenza (Spanish Flu) hit Australia killing an estimated 6,387 people in New South Wales between January – September.

Mrs Waley gave her property "Mowbray Park" to the Commonwealth Government to be used as a convalescent home for WW1 soldiers and seamen.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

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|  | <p>Wollondilly's Fallen – The men of Wollondilly Shire who gave their lives in the Great War (2015) A4, 108 pages, illustrated. Concentrating on the effect on the local community of the deaths of soldiers during WWI but including men from all over NSW who were born or came to work in the Wollondilly Shire. \$20.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>Tahmoor...It has no definite name. Marlane Fairfax. (2017) A4 format, 130p. Illustrated. 2016 was the Centenary of the naming of Tahmoor however the locality has European history which predates nearly 100 years earlier. \$25.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>Along the Menangle Road – a concise history of the Land Grants on Menangle Road between Menangle Bridge and Picton Road. Ken Williams (2nd edition 2009) A4. 44p. Illustrated. \$15.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>1824 Cawdor Bench of Magistrates Population, Land and Stock Book. A biographic register of the inhabitants residing in the Cowpastures. Ken Williams (2011). A4, 176p, sources, index. \$25.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>Cemetery Transcripts Bargo Cemetery Memorials (2010) A4. 121p. Illus. Photos of all headstones. \$25.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>Burial records of St Mark's Anglican Church, Picton (2001) (A4, 23p. Lists 849 people known to have been buried in the graveyard with locations, date of death, age and remarks. \$12.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
|  | <p>Redbank Uniting Church (formerly Wesleyan Chapel) – A Pictorial View (2004) A4. 132p. Cemetery transcriptions with photographs. - \$20.00 + \$5.00 p&p</p> |
| <p>TEA TOWELS – black and white, features drawings of several historic buildings and map of Picton showing their locations. \$10.00 ea. + \$3.50 p&p</p> | |

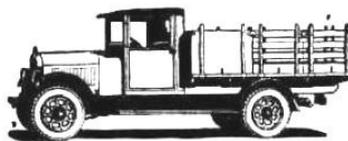
Out of Print – Reference Only

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|--|
| <p>Marriage Transcripts -St Mark's Anglican Church Vol 1, 1839-1897. A4, 57p. A full transcription of all marriages conducted by ministers throughout the Parish which at times covered much of southern Wollondilly Shire. Vol 2, 1898-1929. A4 62p. Includes a register for marriages conducted at Yerranderie from 1911 to 1923. Vol 3. 1924-1963. A4 99p. Includes Register for St Alban's at Douglas Park from 1924 to 1957. Includes master index for all marriages showing groom and bride and date of marriage for the 3 volumes</p> |
| <p>Chronicles of the Early Cowpastures and Stonequarry – 1820-1850, Vol 1 (2010). A4, 74ps, illustrated, index. 12 chapters on people and subjects: JBL De Arrietta, A Bushranger Hunt; Frances MacNamara; The Village Shopkeeper – John Martin; Francis Little; Early Burials in the Cowpastures; Park Hall – The Mitchell Connection; The Woolpack Inn; Fairy Hill; Robert Crawford; Andonis Manolis – the Greek Pirate; Vault Hill.</p> |

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